

DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, March 14th, 2022
555 S 10th Street
Luxford Studio

I. MINUTES

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

III. CITY CLERK

IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE

V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE

1. BP220303-1 PC – Shelli Reid
2. BP220308-1 Weekly Admin. Approvals – Shelli Reid

VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS

VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. FAIRNESS ORDINANCE – Dan Thorne
2. Water Quality – Henry Walker
3. Oppose Gender Identity Ordinance – Dale Michels
4. Waterford Estates Apartments – Brooke Wyatt
5. Housing – Kimberly
6. Letter to Council – Eric Reiter
7. Fairness Ordinance request copy – Erin Putney
8. Change of Zone 12054 from AG to B2 and Use Permit 21010 – Ken Allen
9. Exemption/Reasonable Accommodation – Ronald Baddorf
10. Photos in support of request – Ronald Baddorf

VII. ADJOURNMENT

****ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION****

NOTICE: The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information, call the Planning Department, (402) 441-7491.

****PLEASE NOTE:** The Planning Commission action is final action on any item with a notation of *FINAL ACTION*. Any aggrieved person may appeal Final Action of the Planning Commission to the City Council or County Board by filing a Notice of Appeal with the City Clerk or County Clerk within 14 days following the action of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission action on all other items is a recommendation to the City Council or County Board.

The Planning Commission will be allowing testimony on agenda items by videoconferencing. For those who wish to testify by video, you must register with the Planning Department Office to participate by calling 402-441-7491 or emailing Plan@lincoln.ne.gov by 10:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. You will be asked to provide your name, address, phone number and the agenda item(s) you wish to speak on, and your position on this item. On the day of the hearing, you will receive a link via email, which will be needed to join the hearing to provide your testimony.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

[All Commissioners present]

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held February 16, 2022. ****APPROVED: 9-0****

1. CONSENT AGENDA (Public Hearing and Administrative Action)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND RELATED ITEMS:

- 1.1 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE 22002, to review as to conformance with the 2050 Lincoln Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, request for a conservation easement to preserve flood storage capacity and natural resources on approximately 0.53 acres in the northern portion of the lot, on property generally located north of A Street and west of 1st Street.
Staff recommendation: In Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan
Staff Planner: Andrew Thierolf, 402-441-6371, athierolf@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: FINDING OF CONFORMANCE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 9-0: The City Law Department will introduce the associated Conservation Easement Agreement on a future City Council agenda.

ANNEXATION AND REATED ITEMS:

- 1.2a ANNEXATION 21005, to annex approximately 53.30 acres, more or less, on property generally located west of North 56th Street between Alvo and Arbor Roads.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: 9-0, as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated February 18, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
- 1.2b CHANGE OF ZONE 21038, from AG (Agricultural District), H-1 (Interstate Commercial District), and H-3 (Highway Commercial District) to H-4 (General Commercial District), on generally located at North 56th Street and Arbor Road.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: 9-0, as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated February 18, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
- 1.3a ANNEXATION 22001, to annex approximately 42.35 acres, on property generally located at South 70th Street and Rokeby Road.
Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 9-0, Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
- 1.3b CHANGE OF ZONE 22003, from AG (Agricultural District) to R-3 (Residential District), over approximately 32.89 acres, on property generally located at South 70th Street and Rokeby Road.
Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 9-0. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
- 1.3c CHANGE OF ZONE 21022A, from AG (Agricultural District) to R-5 (Residential District) PUD (Planned Unit Development), to expand the existing Grandview Estates 2nd Addition PUD by approximately 9.8 acres for a total of approximately 911 multiple family dwelling units and 50,000 square feet of commercial floor area, on property generally located at South 70th Street and Rokeby Road.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: 9-0, as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated February 17, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

2. **REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL:** See Item 5.1c
3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None

4. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

CHANGE OF ZONE AND RELATED ITEMS:

- 4.1a CHANGE OF ZONE 21054, from AG (Agricultural District) to B-2 (Planned Neighborhood Business District), on property generally located at North 98th Street and Boathouse Road.
Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Staff Planner: Brian Will, 402-441-6362, bwill@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 9-0. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
- 4.1b USE PERMIT 21010, for multi-family dwellings and commercial pad sites with 505 dwelling units and 48,000 square feet of allowable floor area for commercial uses, with associated waivers, on property generally located at North 98th Street and Boathouse Road.
Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: 9-0, as set forth in the conditions of the staff report dated February 17, 2022. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

5. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT AND RELATED ITEMS:

- 5.1a COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 22003, to amend the Lincoln-Lancaster County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to revise the Future Land Use Map from "Commercial" and "Urban Density-Residential" to "Public and Semi-Public", on property generally located at Waterford Estates and Linwood Lane.
Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 9-0. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
- 5.1b CHANGE OF ZONE 22001, from AG (Agricultural District), B-2 (Planned Neighborhood Business District) and R-3 (Residential District) to P (Public Use District), on property generally located at Waterford Estates Drive and Linwood Lane.
Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 9-0. Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
- 5.1c PRELIMINARY PLAT 04011A, for a preliminary plat amendment to show a revised street layout, with associated waiver, on property generally located at Waterford Estates Drive and Linwood Lane. *** FINAL ACTION ***
Staff recommendation: Approval
Staff Planner: George Wesselhoft, 402-441-6366, gwesselhoft@lincoln.ne.gov
Planning Commission granted the request on behalf of the applicant for a 2-week deferral, with CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION scheduled on March 16, 2021.

* * * * *

AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM
NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO.

* * * * *

Adjournment: 3:18 p.m.

Memorandum

Date: March 8, 2022

To: City Clerk

From: Alexis Longstreet, Planning Dept.

Re: Administrative Approvals

cc: Shelli Reid, Planning Dept.

This is a list of City administrative approvals by the Planning Director from March 1, 2022, through March 7, 2022:

Administrative Amendment 22010 to Special Permit #1013K Trade Center generally located at S. 56th Street & Old Cheney Road to increase the floor area on 6010 South 58th Street by 1,530 square feet from 5,270 to 6,800 square feet thereby increasing the total floor area allowed from 257,433 to 258,963 square feet was approved on March 2, 2022.

Administrative Permit 21002 to install personal wireless services facilities consisting of roof-mounted antennas generally located at 233 South 13th Street.

JaMel E. Ways

From: Dan Thorne <520katoom@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 7:12 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: FAIRNESS ORDINANCE

How can I find and read the FAIRNESS ordinance?

JaMel E. Ways

From: Henry Walker <Henryoscarwalker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 2:20 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Water Quality

Hello,

I have a potentially urgent request for some information regarding the quality of well water in the Lincoln area.

I know that the government water is checked for all kinds of toxins and hard metals, but I need to know which toxins are common in the area.

Thank you,

Henry

JaMel E. Ways

From: Dale Michels <dale.michels@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 10:29 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Oppose Gender Identity Ordinance

Hello, my name is Dale Michels, MD, and I live just outside of Lincoln at 11800 Van Dorn St. and practiced medicine in Lincoln for 44 years before I retired. I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed ordinance redefining sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity in Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. We can all agree that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Disagreement is not discrimination. These policies take away constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and provoke intolerance toward people who have beliefs different from those in political power. Rather than being used as a shield against actual discrimination, these gender identity policies have been used against people who don't conform to one particular view on sex and gender. First Amendment freedoms and the privacy and safety of women should not be compromised by policies that empower the government to unfairly coerce those with whom it disagrees. I respectfully urge you not to redefine sex in Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

JaMel E. Ways

From: Brooke Wyatt <brooke@highlinerealestategroup.com>
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 10:33 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Waterford Estates Apartments

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the amount of apartments going in and around the waterford area. My family and I live in this development and we truly enjoy it. We have noticed an uptick in traffic. The roads have struggled to keep up in both structure and traffic flow. Oftentimes 98th street between O and Holdrege is used as a literal race track by drivers. This is unsafe and the amount of traffic being brought in will only make it worse.

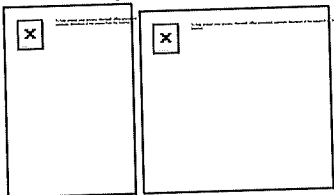
We also came to this neighborhood with an understanding, per the covenants, that it would be single family housing only. We pay an HOA fee for the neighborhood and for lake access. The lake will surely be diminished in quality with the amount of traffic it will take on as a result of these apartments. We are being told there are 2-3 new apartment complexes being proposed and likely moving forward near O St. This is on top of the one just West of the neighborhood that is currently being built. Add in the new elementary school (which is great!) and kids walking to school, the safety and traffic of the neighborhood is soon to get out of hand.

I absolutely support the need for housing and apartments. It is also clear that they need to be spread out through town. To pile this many in one area in a short amount of time is irresponsible to infrastructure, traffic flow, safety, and maintenance of the neighborhood and its amenities.

Please reconsider these projects and minimize their impact by relocating them to more suited areas.

Thank you,
Brooke Wyatt

--
Brooke Wyatt | REALTOR® | T 704.614.2767 | SimpliCity



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JaMel E. Ways

From: fangface.lucas <fangface.lucas@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 5, 2022 4:49 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Housing

To whom this will be read by.

My name is Kimberly and I moved here in 1995. Lincoln City was a quiet and loveable place. There was housing for everyone and jobs. There were vacation rentals and they were at the beach and at the lake. The people that rented them were nice and respectful.

The mall was full of stores the restaurants were fully staffed with kind and wanting to help. We did not have traffic accidents everyday or gun fire. We didn't have high speed chases and Suicides right and left.

Now we have a town that hates everyone. The residents here have no place live that costs are to high and the places that are for rent i would not let my dog live in. \$ 2000 a month is way to much when you only make \$12.00 an hour and part time.

The mall really is not a mall it is a what not place. There is a shop where you throw knives axes bow and arrows a hang out for teenagers a arcade a gym and a second hand clothing store. I worked at the mall for years. After my two strokes I left. The mall was always busy and full. To see the mall it is sad. We can not get new stores because of housing issues the named brand stores do not hire from Lincoln City. In two years there will be no more malls or hotels, restaurants because the lack of housing and caring for the people that live here.

Hotels motels are never full and the employees are miss treated. Our beautiful town is now very dim and not friendly. The vacation rentals are not bring in money

The owners are from different states and very unkind. My family has been looking to buy a home. Everytime we get to see it someone comes in like a bull moose and takes it from us. \$695,000.00 is the cheapest home that we can find and is in a neighborhood full of vacation rentals that the owners are doing. When is enough enough on the vacation rentals. How many more do these hoarders need. What has the residents done to disservice this? Lincoln City is now full of hate angry and disappointed

We voted to limited vacation rentals and hold them responsible for all the trash and dismay that they bring. Our city is dirty unwelcome and not trusting. Car accidents everyday and Safeway has empty shelves and short staffed and is so expensive and this is every day

I challenge you all to go out and look at our beaches, streets, restaurants and where all the vacation rentals are.

In my neborhood we have a home owner that rents out their house to 10 people at a time. They have tents out side they bring animals that dig up flower beds kills family pets and deer. There was a man in his late 50s running around in his boxers slapping teenage girl in their butts. A mother hit his mall child so hard that his head bounced off driveway. The noise the trash. Our cars were broke into. They tried to get into my house. I had hand prints on all my windows

. This makes me mad and upset. No one wants to follow rules or be grateful. Everyone has the right to buy a home be safe in their neborhood. No one has the right to tell you that you can not live here because you only make \$40 000,00 a year.

Listen to the residents that are left. People are moving away closing their business's and restaurants.

I don't want to live here anymore.

TO MUCH HATE.

Thank you for your time. I know that this letter does not mean anything to any of you but think about was is best for the residents and the city not the rich people that care about anyone but themselves.

Kimberly

JaMel E. Ways

From: Eric Reiter <reiter.eric.j@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Letter to Council
Attachments: City Council Letter 3_7.pdf

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Mx. Eric J. Reiter | *Pronouns: they/them/their*
402-719-7490

reiter.eric.j@gmail.com

Context | Futuristic | Empathy | Input | Belief

Please know that I honor your boundaries and well-being; should you receive an email from me during your personal time of caretaking or rest, please feel empowered to wait to respond until your next work time. Prioritize joy and well-being where you can, and know that I will do the same.

City Council

I assume everyone has heard by now of the death of Milo Winslow, a local trans activist, by suicide. If you have not, here is a local Journal Star article:
https://journalstar.com/news/local/lincoln-loses-voice-for-transgender-community/article_765bd288-964f-5b33-8256-7235e40da27c.html.

I will be frank with you: **I am angry, I am hurt, and I am scared of what this could do for our community.** You have all known for over a year that this could happen, and yet we didn't even have anything prepared in response to the press event held by the Nebraska Family Alliance. You have known the risks this would involve, and yet we have yet to see a plan for how to win this issue at the ballot box. You have known how this would create an undue burden on Lincoln's trans community, and yet you proceeded forward without any structural support system in place to take care of us.

I don't want to assume anyone's motives behind their actions, so I won't; what I will say is that many of us feel that we were gaslighted into believing we were overreacting. I personally have felt that our concerns were ignored for those of a group of older, cisgender queer people who for some reason carry more weight than the community most impacted.

I can personally attest to the nuance and multi-faceted circumstances that attribute to someone completing suicide, and I don't want to place the blame for Milo's death on anyone's doorstep. The biggest villain is a transphobic society. **What I'm disappointed in is that it feels like most of the council did not listen to us and have not responded in a way that is even remotely adequate.**

I urge you to take the actions necessary to rescind this ordinance. That is the only safe way forward.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best,
Eric Reiter
(402) 719-7490

JaMel E. Ways

From: Erin Putney <eputneyrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 10:24 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Fairness Ordinance request copy

Dear Lincoln City Council,

Thank you for supporting the safety of the gay-queer-trans community.

I am wanting to read the ordinance to educate myself and others as this moves sadly forward to needing a vote. Could you please send me a copy or link where I can find this proposed ordinance?

I feel I am a decent google searcher and while I find many news articles I cant find the actual propped ordinance.

Thank you for your time and energy that you give to our community.

Erin Putney

JaMel E. Ways

From: K Allen <ken_inn57@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 2:13 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Change of Zone 12054 from AG to B2 and Use Permit 21010

Council persons,

My name is Ken Allen, and my home address is 9830 Waterford Estates Drive, Lincoln, NE. I am in opposition to the proposal of the Change of Zone 12054 from AG to B2 and Use Permit 21010 for multi family dwellings and commercial pad sites with 505 units at 98th St. and Boathouse Rd.

I ask you to carefully think this whole process through before you vote on this proposal. Please listen to the fine people from this district and the people of Lincoln Nebraska that have elected you. You are the vote in this matter that carries weight for the people of Lincoln. You will have to answer to the People about your vote on this item, so prepare yourself to explain your vote in an honest manner.

Do not factor in the persons who are lobbying for this apartment as they are not necessarily the people of Lincoln and for sure not the people from the Waterford area. The persons lobbying are only looking at the money they stand to make and do not care about the fine residence of the Waterford area.

Ask yourself, why is it so important to locate these apartments at this location? Would you want these apartments in your back or front yard?

Apartment complexes should be located on a site at a distance, separate from single family home dwellings. How would you like me to build an apartment near:

2720 Katy Cir. Lincoln, NE?

Or in the Havelock area next to your residence?

Or fairway 15 of Lincoln Country Club across from 3015 S. 20th St.?

Of next to 641 NW 20th St.?

Would you vote no if they chose to build them next to your home?

This zoning change to consider an apartment complex should not even be in consideration for this council. There should be an ordinance that apartment complexes shall be built at least 1000 feet from any existing single-family dwelling. I would ask those folks lobbying for this change if they would like an apartment complex built next to their residence?

Listen to the people who elected you and those people affected by this decision you are asked to make. Either build these apartments next to your residence or have them built with separation from any established single home dwellings.

K Allen

JaMel E. Ways

From: Ronald Baddorf <ronald.baddorf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Congressman Jeff Fortenberry
Subject: EXEMPTION/REASONABLE ACCOMADATION
Attachments: ESA.pdf; What Animals Can Classify as an Emotional Support Animal ESA Co..webarchive; Benefit Verification Letter-90.pdf; Lucy Emotional Support.pdf

Dear council members,

My wife and I are requesting an exemption/reasonable accommodation in regards to our sweet Lucy, who is our emotional support animal. Both my wife and I have been diagnosed with PTSD, depression, anxiety and other issues. While I am rated by the Veterans Administration as 90% disabled, my wife chooses not to deal with the VA or Army any longer.

My VA psychologist Dr. Keller has been treating me since 2020 and has also seen my wife with me. Please find attached a letter from Dr. Keller certifying Lucy as our emotional support animal. Please also find attached documents about emotional support animals and how mini-pigs are extremely helpful in this regard. Also, attached is a copy of my VA benefit statement.

My wife Diana (Dee) would be devastated if we lost our Lucy, as would I. Please help us. Lucy stays in our house and back yard (to go potty and sun bath). She sleeps under our bed and always wants to be close to her "mommy."

Thank you for your help in this matter,

Ronald L. Baddorf
GySgt USMC (ret)
EOD
623-826-3830
3240 E. Summit Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68502

Emotional Support Animals:

THE BASICS

Vol 18 Issue 4 Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research July 2021

What is an ESA?

An Emotional Support Animal (ESA) is an animal that provides therapeutic benefit (e.g., emotional support, comfort, companionship) to a person with a mental health or psychiatric disability (such as a serious mental health condition). An ESA is not considered a Service Animal, but under U.S. law, an emotional support animal is also not considered a pet and is generally not restricted by the type of animal.^{1, 2} Any domesticated animal may be considered as an ESA (e.g., cats, dogs, mice, rabbits, birds, hedgehogs, rats, minipigs, ferrets, etc.) and they can be any age. However, an ESA must be able to be manageable in public and does not create a nuisance. ESAs do not perform specific tasks, instead it is the presence of the animal that relieves the symptoms associated with a person's serious mental health condition. For a person to legally have an emotional support animal (ESA), the owner must be considered to have a qualifying mental health or psychiatric disability by a licensed mental health professional (e.g., therapist, psychologist, psychiatrist, etc.), which is documented by a properly formatted prescription letter. The difference between a legitimate ESA and a pet is the letter from your licensed mental health professional.

How is an ESA different from a...

Service Animal

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is defined as "a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability".³ Only a dog can (or in very specific cases a miniature horse) be considered a Service Animal.

Some examples include:

A Guide Dog for persons who have severe visual impairments or are blind.

A Seizure Response Dog assists a person with a seizure disorder.

A Hearing Dog for persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

A Psychiatric Service Dog that assists people living with disabilities detect the onset of Psychiatric episodes and lessen their effects.

N To qualify for a Psychiatric Service Dog (PSD), you'll need a prescription from a licensed mental health professional stating that you need a dog to assist you in a major life task (e.g., provide deep pressure therapy to minimize an anxiety or panic attack or wake you from a night terror).

N The cost of a PSD averages between \$20,000 - \$30,000). Non-profits such as The Foundation for Service Dog Support may reduce costs based on each individual and their service to the community.

Therapy Animal

Therapy Animals are used in clinical settings to bring comfort to individuals in need. Unlike ESAs and Service Animals that are trained to help a single person (their owner), Therapy Animals work in places such as hospitals, mental health institutions, hospices, and schools to bring comfort and affection to many different people.

Pet

Pets do not necessarily provide any therapeutic benefits to their owners and anyone can own a pet regardless of whether they have a disability or mental health condition. While pets absolutely can and do benefit their owners in a variety of ways, providing such benefits is not the "job" of a pet.

2

How do I figure out if an ESA is right for me?

There are no hard rules about who would and would not benefit from an

ESA. The primary benefit is often the simple companionship that comes from spending time with an animal. Animals can be a great comfort during times of distress and a much-needed positive presence on a difficult day. Depending on the type of animal, taking care of an animal can be a lot of work. For some, this kind of responsibility can be useful motivation to do things like adhere to routines (e.g., feeding your animal at the same time(s) every day) or get outside and exercise regularly (e.g., walking a dog).

If you think that an ESA might be right for you, start a conversation with your mental health professionals about it. Tell them why you think having an ESA would be beneficial to you specifically. Your

professional may already know about ESAs and be able to tell you if they would recommend one for you, or you might need to learn more about ESAs together before they make a recommendation.

Where do ESAs come from?

ESAs can come from any of the places that pets come from. Unlike Service Animals, ESAs do not need to be raised or trained in a specific way. Emotional Support Animals can be adopted from shelters, purchased from breeders or pet stores, or obtained from anywhere else that a pet could come from – maybe your neighbor's cat had kittens!

3

Am I allowed to pet/interact with an ESA that I see in public?

Maybe. It is always best to ask the owner before interacting with any animal that isn't yours. Owners of Emotional Support Animals will make their own choices about who interacts with their animals and how. Some owners may be happy to share their animal with you, while others may prefer that their animal be left alone. This is somewhat different from Service Animals that are often "on duty" when they are in public places and should not be disturbed.

Do ESAs wear vests?

There is no requirement for Emotional Support Animals to wear a vest, harness, or any other type of clothing that indicates that they are an ESA. Some owners choose to purchase vests or other clothing that labels their animal as an ESA. However, not all ESAs wear vests, and you cannot assume that an animal without a vest is not an ESA.

Our Other Relevant Materials

- Can I Bring My Emotional Support Animal to College with Me? tip sheet
- Our ESA webpage
- Having an Emotional Support Animal at College. Meet Anwyn and Yoda.
- Comeback TV (CBTV) Episode 3. Therapy Animals: The Types and Your Rights

Finding a Psychiatric Service Dog

- Canine Companions for Independence (<https://www.cci.org>)
- Paws with a Cause (<https://www.pawswithacause.org/>)

- Service Dogs for America (<https://www.servicedogsforamerica.org/>)
- For more training programs and organizations, check out this list of service dog trainers broken down by state. (<http://dogcapex.com/trainers.html>)

Visit the Transitions ACR online at umassmed.edu/transitionsACR

Recommended Citation: Gatesy-Davis, A. (2021). Emotional Support Animals: The Basics. Worcester, MA: University of Massachusetts Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, Implementation Science and Practice Advances Research Center (iSPARC), Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research.

This is a product of Psychiatry Information in Brief. An electronic copy of this tip sheet with full references can be found at:

<https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/pib/vol18/iss4/1>

Some of the contents of this brief were developed under a grant with funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, (NIDILRR), United States Departments of Health and Human Services (NIDILRR grant number 90RTEM0005). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this brief do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, or HHS and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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JaMel E. Ways

From: Ronald Baddorf <ronald.baddorf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 2:31 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Congressman Jeff Fortenberry
Subject: Photos in support of request

